Sources will then examine the DPR for further necessary action.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Solar Energy in U.P.

4049. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state the details of central grants sanctioned and released for development of solar energy in the state of Uttar Pradesh during the last five years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : An amount of Rs. 28.67 crores has been released as central grant in the State of Uttar Pradesh for development of solar energy during the last five years. The total sanctioned grant during these years was Rs. 39.18 crores. During 2000-2001, no release has been made till date. The yearwise details of the grant sanctioned and released are as below :—

Amount of Grant (Rs. in crores)

Year	Sanctioned	Released
1995-96	7.24	5.74
1996-97	7.20	2.36
1997-98	10.53	7.37
1998-99	6.78	9.10
1999-00	7.43	4.10

Non-Convention Energy Sources in Orissa

4050. SHRI R. C. KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes implemented so far/being implemented and proposed to be implemented in Orissa on Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(b) the extent of damage caused during the last year's Super Cyclones to the wind mills; and

(c) how the same will be restored and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing various programmes/schemes such as biogas, imporved chulha, integrated rural energy programme, special area demonstration programme, small hydro power, biomass gasifier, wind power, solar photovoltaics and solar cooker programmes throughout the country including the State of Orissa. So far 1,53,469 biogas plants 17.63 lakhs improved chulhas, 45 IREP blocks, 4 energy parks, 5105 solar lanterns, 1064 home lighting systems, 5482 street lighting systems, 2981 solar cookers, 1.26 MW small hydro power projects and 72KW biomass gasifiers have been installed in the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c) No damage has been reported to the wind mills during the last year's Super Cyclone.

Methane Gas as an Alternative Source of Energy

4051. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to develop methane gas as an alternative source of energy from coal;

(b) if so, the present position of the project, particularly in respect of coal fields in Raniganj in West Bengal and Jharia in Bihar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Petroleum amd Natural Gas has approved the policy for exploration and exploitation of coal bed methane (CBM) to harness the new source of energy from coal in the country. The policy provides for offer of blocks for exploration and exploitation of CBM through open global competitive bidding. Apart from this, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been granted petroleum exploration licence for exploration of CBM in North Raniganj in West Bengal. ONGC has also initiated exploration of CBM as an R and D project and has drilled six wells—two in Durgapur in West Bengal and four in Parbatpur blocks in Jharia coal field in Bihar as part of its research and development activity. A proposal has also been approved by the Government for exploration and exploitation of CBM in an area of 210 sq. km. in South Raniganj.